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SIEGE MEXICO FIRST?

The people of the United States have a serious desire to help Mexico. The patience with which they have waited for President Wilson's administration to come upon a policy, and the reports he has received from all groups and parties clearly indicate this desire. The question arises, however, have the people of the United States the inclination to make them in choosing the right way to help Mexico?

We believe that outside of some specialists, there are few who know Mexican conditions well enough to have a valuable opinion on what is the matter at what is the remedy. We are almost as ignorant of Mexico as Mexicans of us. If the American nation is to help Mexico, it seems the first step is to find out a little more about Mexico. Of course, we are ready to trust the matter largely to those who do know, but ultimately, if we are to do justice, the democracy must express its own sentiments. If there is any personal task requiring knowledge and sympathy and understanding, it is to us to help another person. The same seems true of states.

We do not know how to pronounce their language. A large part of their language is a large part of the nation does not understand the power of the Catholic Church in Latin countries. The relation of international finance and American "big business" to the troubles in Mexico is hinted at, but not popularly understood. The division of classes in the distressed republic is meaningless to most everyday citizens here. What does the word "reform" really mean? What does a court or a judge mean in Mexican daily life? What farce elections are being disclosed recently? Our whole idea of government and democracy is removed from the ideals expressed in those words in Mexico.

The south has reason to remember the wrongs it has wrought by outside influences based on knowledge good intentions are often more dangerous than indifference. We imagine that in many European nations there is what they term our "dangerous class." They feel that we do not have real hands would help the cause of state, changing the actual state of

President Wilson's personal attitude might be a great service to Mexico, and letting him plainly what he could do. We have learned much as a world power in this, where we stumbled into this and began to work the Pittsburg example. The other lesson has been that the existence of assimilation goes along with, not sentiment. In this, nothing else we should know.

THE BEST ROOM IDEA.

Rooms for girls working down will be opened by the Y. W. C. A.

The essence of such a provision is to do the working girl a place where she can rest, eat her lunch, and find a home or some other form of recreation during her daily lunch hour.

This arrangement has been made between the girls now utilizing the waiting rooms in the railway stations. This and the Y. W. C. A. is to be done by the girls themselves.

It can be said that the cost will be generally paid by those whose houses were established. Some girls are known to have

the best room idea by the means of their parents.

Other girls have turned to the local Y. W. C. A. for help.

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LET THE BOARD BE FRANK.

Once more Richmond talks of changing the charter to get better results with its municipal machine. The Times-Dispatch need not repeat that it is in sympathy with the desire to get more economical and efficient direction of city business, but The Times-Dispatch does desire to repeat that the problem must be faced as a whole and with courage and conviction. We see little to be gained by a tampering here and there with isolated parts of the machine.

The Administrative Board has had almost a year's trial. It certainly has not accomplished what was expected. It is doubtful whether under existing State laws anything can be done to make it accomplish what it was designed to do. Yet the first thing to be done is to find out exactly what the board has done. We think it is up to these five gentlemen to present a report to the taxpayers of Richmond of the economies they have achieved and the methods they have improved. This is a public duty and should be a private ambition.

In short, we want an inventory. From day to day, we have read of this and that contract made by the board; of this and that improvement planned, of this or that bid asked for. We have seen a number of fine chances slip through the fingers of the administrators. We know that it costs over \$2,000 a year to employ these men and their assistants. We do not know how much money has been made or saved for Richmond in return for this outlay.

To arrive at some sort of a conclusion as to the value of the Administrative Board is not beyond reason. We can even put a value on the time that has been saved under the new system. If it can be shown that time has been saved, we can also judge of what the manifest friction between the board and the Council has meant as a handicap to Richmond.

To ask for such a statement of facts is not a challenge. It implies no prejudice against the board. It is merely a business proposition. What form such an inventory should take matters little. It may take the shape of the annual report to the Mayor, or accompany the board's budget estimates for next year. It need not even be formal. Yet it must soon be forthcoming, for Richmond cannot afford the expense of supporting an institution the results of whose existence are unknown.

A BAR TO THE LAND BUYER.

Few Southerners are buying land in and around Albemarle County, according to the Petersburg Index-Appeal, which informs us that some years ago a very substantial Scotch gentleman came into the county, liked the land very much, bought a farm, and is now a leading citizen. In connection with his farming operations he took up real estate dealing, and persuaded a number of his fellow-countrymen to emigrate and buy land in his section. Yet he is represented as despairing of inducing any more to take chances in securing clear title to lands there, for several of those who were induced to purchase farms in the county found that they either had bought a lawsuit or that the title to the farm practically was worthless, owing to a claim against the property overlooked by the abstractor of title made by a lawyer.

At the Index-Appeal says, "titles are worse in Albemarle than in other counties of Virginia—indeed, they are probably better than those of the average county," but in this specific case we have evidence of the vital necessity for the simplification of the Virginia method of transferring real estate. If we had had the Torrens system of registration and guaranty of land titles in Virginia, not only would the Scotchman above referred to have been in possession of the lands for which they paid their money, but many more of their fellowmen overseas would have come to Albemarle and settled.

WHAT TONGUE FOR OPERA?

Richmond is not practically interested as to whether grand opera shall be given in Italian or English. Our problem seems to be whether grand opera can be given in an ex-street car barn. Nevertheless, since we are going to have opera some day, if not for culture, then to show Atlanta and Dallas that we can, it is not pointless to wonder whether we would like it on the European or American plan.

The question has been newly raised this year by the success of the English opera company at the Century Theatre in New York. That venture seems to demonstrate that grand-opera can indeed a big show that can only be put on with fillips at the Metropolitan. Popular methods of production at fair prices meet with approval. It is to be noted here, however, that the managers of the Century venture put on one opera a week, we believe, in the native tongue. This is declared to be a concession to the great number of foreign-born music-lovers in the metropolis. It has also been emphasized as the beginning of a return to the inspection of every citizen, and not books used in the primary school, but those used in primary elections. Long before the General Assembly of 1912 met we advocated requiring poll books used at primary elections to be returned to the clerk's office of each county and city, and thrown open to the public, so that the voter could see who his opponent was. This is a very enthusiastic demand of ours, and there is no reason why he is already a law in all of our cities, as he is highly delighted with the honor conferred upon him by the college of Marquette and Jefferson and the mother of Phi Beta Kappa—Virginia Gazette.

A Righteous Decision.

We are greatly rejoiced that the Virginia Senate on Tuesday last Wednesday sustained unanimously the decision of Circuit Judge McLeMORE, of Norfolk, awarding a judgment against James E. PEPPER, Clerk of the court of that city, who had refused to exhibit the poll books used in the recent election to his defeated opponent, Mr. PEACHTREE. We care little for nothing but the result between Mr. PEPPER and Mr. PEACHTREE, but we attach utmost importance to the merits of the controversy over the opening of the poll books. To say that a clerk of the court can arbitrarily refuse to exhibit

the poll books is absurd.

At bottom, we wonder whether the language has much to do with it.

The music is first and the words are moulded to suit this demand. The literary value of most opera, whether in Italian or English, is very slight. The vocabulary of standard opera is traditionally thin and poor. In many cases the words, when sung sound ridiculous and the less they are understood, the happier the auditor. About all that is essential is a knowledge of the story that is sung. Without that some of the emotional significance is lost. With that general idea, we generally neglect the dialogue.

Language is intellectual. It is built to convey ideas. There are designed to express emotion by pantomime, scenery and music. It would not be strange if a too great concern for verbal clearness resulted in a real esthetic loss.

That there is at least one classical left in Richmond is evidenced by the fact that when Dr. JAMES NELSON, president of the Woman's College, addressed the torchlight parade of the Richmond college students after their graduation, triumph Saturday night, he quoted from the epigrams of Martin.

One more gridiron job for the University of Virginia under-takers—University of North Carolina.

The splendid thing about the F. F. V. Turkey is that it has not only quantity, but quality.

VIRGINIA MUST ADOPT THE ALABAMA SYSTEM.

In 1907 John H. Wallace, Jr., secured the enactment into law, in Alabama, of a wise and comprehensive game law, which neither temporized with pot-hunters nor the individual selfishness of sportsmen. Opposed by the farmers at first because they did not understand his methods, the author of the Alabama game bill is now the most popular candidate for Governor of Alabama, and is especially well supported by the farmers, who now understand how much they owe him.

Since the law was created six years ago, Alabama has become one of the foremost States in the Union in point of game wealth, for Mr. Wallace has enforced the law, as shown by 1,200 convictions to date for violations thereof. He has not only created the game department, firmly established it as an important arm of the government, organized a vast army of wardens and educated the landowners of the State in the value of bird-life and game protection, but without one cent of expense to the State he has accomplished all this and turned over as a net profit to the taxpayers of Alabama \$22,651.69 as a net profit to the taxpayers of Alabama, every cent of which was derived through hunting licenses and fines.

The population of Virginia is probably equal to that of Alabama. Virginia is suffering from all the evils from which Mr. Wallace has delivered his State. The General Assembly of Virginia in 1912 failed to enact the bill drafted by Colonel J. C. Wise upon the lines of the Wallace law, which has been copied in six years by fourteen other States. Colonel Wise will have the bill introduced again at the session of 1914, and we are of opinion that herein that body will not prove remiss in its duty.

It is no easy task to make people take game protection seriously. They generally choose to consider it as a special measure in the interest of sportsmen or the idle few. As a matter of fact, however, sport is only an incident of the conservation of a great natural resource. The economic features of game protection are what interest us and what should appeal to our legislators. The Wise game bill will yield three vast benefits to Virginia, which, briefly stated, are:

(1) The conservation of bird-life, which is of incalculable value to the agricultural interests of the State.

(2) The disarmament of arms of ill-doers, marauders, who now devastate our fields for three or four months of each year, and the forcing of this element to follow legitimate pursuits.

(3) The introduction of an enormous amount of foreign capital in consequence of better game conditions through visiting sportsmen.

Small these benefits to be secured to Virginia? Is Virginia to substitute a policy of conservation for a policy of devastation?

X. KRAKAS has been arrested for mailing false tax returns to the Confederate Tax Commission.

A. H. SAUNDERS has been appointed Confederate States commissioner by Judge McLEMORE.

An officer of the 10th Cavalry was inspecting his company one morning of late spied one private whose coat was sadly torn. Patrick O'FLYNN, called out to the captain, "Sir, you wear your uniform?" Twenty-eight inches.

Execution in the Army.

JAMES K. TURNER, of Petersburg, of Company K, 10th Cavalry, was executed at Fort Monroe with his staff.

The Results at Gettysburg.

General MEADE's official report sums up the results of the Pennsylvania campaign in the following language: "In the engagement of July 1, 52 killed, 2,337 wounded, 13,709 missing, 6,443 Total, 23,186. These guns, four stand and 1,921 prisoners were taken in Union hands."

Bishop TURNER.

H. M. TURNER, negro pastor of a negro church in Petersburg, has been appointed chaplain of the First South Carolina United States colored troops.

Buster in Virginia.

General McLEMORE has arrived at Petersburg.

The Exchange of Surgeons.

The exchange of surgeons has been agreed upon by the Confederate States and the United States governments. We have no record of the terms to be delivered.

Confederate Prisoners Escape Prevented.

The Yankee public has been startled by the escape of 1,000 Confederates from Johnson's Island, in Lake Erie, and to burn Ossining and Buffalo. The escape was reported in a letter from the British minister, Lord Lyons.

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